

Although very busy with career and family, Larry has always made time to give back to the city that has been the starting point of his success. Every year, this dedicated individual hosts the local United Negro College Fund and Muscular Dystrophy Association telethons and serves as "quiz master" for the Los Angeles Unified School District Academic Decathlon "Superquizzes." Emceeding nearly 2,000 programs in the greater Los Angeles community over the past 30 years, Larry also serves as a member of the board of directors for numerous community, as well as professional organizations. In addition, he has been the recipient of over 100 awards, citations and honors from government, civic and community organizations for his tireless devotion to the people of Los Angeles.

Mr. Speaker, on May 30, 2001, colleagues, friends and family will gather for a special evening to salute Larry McCormick's 30 years with KTLA. It is with great pride that I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring this exceptional individual for his outstanding contributions to the broadcast industry and his ongoing commitment to serve the communities of Greater Los Angeles.

POLITICAL CRISIS IN INDONESIA

HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2001

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, recent political crises in Indonesia underscore the difficult challenges facing the development of democracy in that nation and region. The spectrum of issues includes human rights violations in Aceh, Irian Jaya, Maluku, Poso, and Padang, the Trisakti shooting, corruption cases, mass rapes of Chinese women in May 1998, and the upcoming parliamentary actions against President Wahid. At this moment, democracy in its infancy is being seriously challenged in Indonesia. No great principle or ideology, however, survives without facing serious challenges—challenges that can be surmounted with great sacrifice and leadership. Democracy is a principle for which it is worth fighting. And, I trust that the people of Indonesia and their leaders will continue to make every effort to see that democracy is established firmly so that the Indonesian people will enjoy true prosperity and peace.

Last June I led a delegation to Indonesia and shared with President Wahid deep concern about the presence of Laskar Jihad in the Maluku and the widespread violence and bloodshed perpetrated by this group. The President indicated he had ordered Laskar Jihad to leave and stay out—an encouraging sign for the suffering people in Maluku. Several weeks ago reports detailed the arrest of the leader of Laskar Jihad, Mr. Jafar Umar Thalib. Many hoped that the turmoil and killings in the Maluku would finally come to an end. Important progress has been made among the Moluccans themselves, both the Muslims and the Christians, with reconciliation, rehabilitation and the rebuilding programs for people in the Maluku. This reflects a foundation and strong desire for the Moluccan people to reconcile without interference from militant and extremist groups such as Laskar Jihad.

Unfortunately, continued reports from Indonesia about the arrest and then release of

leaders promoting violence, particularly the release of Mr. Jafar Thalib from police custody, have discouraged many within Indonesia. There are widespread implications of the release of an individual who seems to only promote violence, bloodshed, and division. Mr. Thalib's, and other militant leaders' desires undermine the establishment and continued development of democracy, civil society, freedom, and peace for the people of Indonesia. In addition, the proposals of some groups to impose Sharia law on the entire nation raises great concerns. One is hard-pressed to find a country anywhere in the world in which democracy and Sharia law coexist.

The unrest and strife resulted in \$90 billion in foreign investment leaving Indonesia in the year 2000. Yet, the international business community hopes to return investment to Indonesia and increase business and therefore jobs for local economies. Lack of rule of law and civil society create instability—an environment that threatens any economic growth. Businesses will find other markets in which to grow in Asia.

I, and many other Members of Congress, fully support the establishment and development of democracy in Indonesia. Civil society and stability will create a lasting atmosphere in which the beauty, diversity, and resources of Indonesia and the Indonesian people can grow and be enjoyed in peace and prosperity.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO NAME THE KOKOMO, INDIANA POST OFFICE FOR FORMER CON- GRESSMAN ELWOOD "BUD" HIL- LIS

HON. STEVE BUYER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2001

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor one of the most distinguished men ever to represent the state of Indiana in the House of Representatives by introducing legislation to name the post office in Kokomo, Indiana for my good friend, former Congressman Bud Hillis.

Bud honorably and effectively served the people of Indiana's 5th District in the House of Representatives from 1971 to 1986. During his time in the Congress he was a reasonable and authoritative voice on matters of national security, trade, and veterans issues. A graduate of Indiana's Culver Military Academy, he enlisted to fight in World War II at the age of 18. He served as an infantryman in the European Theater for 27 months, leaving active duty as a first lieutenant. After the war, Bud attended Indiana University and the Indiana University School of Law. He went on to practice law in Howard County, Indiana, and served as Chairman of the county bar association.

Before his election to Congress in November of 1970, he served two terms in the Indiana House of Representatives. As a Member of the U.S. Congress, Bud was known for a unique combination of genteel civility and firm resolve. During his years in Washington, he was noted for his leadership on several issues of vital importance to Hoosiers and to the nation as a whole.

As a member of the Armed Services Committee, Bud was instrumental in the develop-

ment and deployment of the M-1 tank and the preservation of Grissom Air Force Reserve Base. He took a serious interest in the automobile industry as a founding member of the Congressional Auto Task Force and was a leading advocate of the rescue of Chrysler. He was also a strong force in the Congressional Steel Caucus as Vice President of the executive committee. Bud also took seriously our nation's commitments to our veterans. As a member of the Veterans Affairs Committee, he was a leader in caring for our country's veterans, and was instrumental in the construction of the outpatient clinic at Crown Point.

Mr. Speaker, Bud Hillis has a distinguished record of service to his country and to the people he represented here in the House of Representatives. The dedication of the Kokomo post office, would be a fitting tribute for such an honorable and accomplished man.

HONORING LESLIE BELCHER SOWELL

HON. WES WATKINS

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2001

Mr. WATKINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my chief of staff, Leslie Belcher Sowell, who is leaving the service of Oklahoma's Third Congressional District this past Thursday, May 24, 2001 after many, many years as a member of my staff. Leslie is a multi-talented young woman whom I have watched grow and mature from a young congressional intern into a true professional as my top congressional advisor and most trusted political assistant.

Leslie grew up in Chandler, Oklahoma, in the Third District. She is a graduate of Chandler High School and Oklahoma State University in Stillwater.

Leslie first joined my staff as a congressional intern. Later, after she graduated from college, Leslie joined my office full-time as a staff assistant and receptionist. It wasn't long before Leslie earned a promotion to legislative assistant, and she eventually became one of my top assistants for the House Appropriations Committee. Her assistance as invaluable to my efforts to help the economic and job growth of the Third District.

When I left Congress after 1990, Leslie returned to OSU where she served on the staff of the university's government relations office. She returned to Capitol Hill a few years later to work as legislative director for my successor in the Third District, Rep. Bill Brewster, D-Oklahoma.

In 1996, when I decided to return to Congress, Leslie again joined me, this time as my chief of staff and top political advisor. In addition, she served as my legislative director and press secretary during the initial period of my first term back in Congress when we were organizing my new staff.

In 1997, during consideration of a major tax bill, Leslie became an underlying catalyst in my efforts to make sure former Native American lands in Oklahoma were eligible for tax incentives created to encourage economic development on Native American reservations. Leslie helped me guide this hallmark legislation through the Ways and Means Committee,